



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/363,605	07/29/1999	PAUL A. LABERGE	MICE-0037-US	8331

7590 12/03/2002

COE F MILES
TROP PRUNER HU & MILES PC
8554 KATY FREEWAY
SUITE 100
HOUSTON, TX 77024

EXAMINER

CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2181

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/363605

Applicant(s)

Laberge

Examiner

X. CHANG-TRANS

Group Art Unit

2181

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/29/99
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2181

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application.

Claims 3 and 24 are objected to because of the following informalities: line 3, the term "the conductive lines" should be changed to - - the conductive traces --.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16- 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Melo et al. (U.S.Pat. No. 6199131).

Melo discloses (Figs. 1 and 3) a computer system comprising: a local bus (103); a memory bus capable of indicating data (106); and a buffer (306) adapted to capture the data directly for the memory bus; Melo further discloses conductive traces (307) adapted to

Art Unit: 2181

communicate indication of the data from a first region near the memory bus to a second region near the buffer, the conductive traces introducing an approximate first asynchronous propagation delay in the communication; circuitry (204) to transfer the data from the buffer to the local bus without introducing a second propagation asynchronous propagation delay that is greater than the first asynchronous propagation delay; wherein the buffer is part of a local bus interface; wherein the local bus interface comprises a local bus controller. Melo further discloses a memory interface located closer to the memory than to the local bus.

As per claims 18-21, these claims recite a method substantially the same as the system claims. Therefore, they are rejected under the similar rationale.

4. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Melo et al. in view of the application admitted prior art (specification, pages 1-2 and fig.1).

As per claims 7 and 15, Melo does not explicitly disclose the use of a multiplexing circuit. However, the use of a multiplexing circuit is well-known in the art as admitted by the applicant (fig.1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of applicant admitted art in order to selectively couple the buffer to the third and fourth bus interfaces.

5. Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Melo et al..

Art Unit: 2181

As per claims 22-26, the teaching of Melo is discussed above, Melo does not explicitly disclose extending the memory bus into the bridge. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to do in order to exchange data from the memory bus to the local bus faster.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xuong Chung-Trans whose telephone number is (703) 305-9772. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30AM to 2:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached on (703) 305- 4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



X.M. Chung-Trans
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2181